

Compline Tales

The Dark Before Dawn.

Oh, mystery of the morning gloom,
Of haunted air, of windless hush!
Oh, wonder of the deepening dome—
Afar, still far, the morning's flush!
My spirit hears, among the spheres,
The round earth's ever-quickening rush!

A single leaf, on yonder tree,
The planet's rush hath felt, hath heard;
And soon all branches whispering be!
That whisper wakes the nested bird—
The song of thrush, before the blush
Of dawn the dreaming world has ever stirred!

The old moon withers in the east—
The winds of space may drive her far!
In heaven's chancel waits the priest—
Dawn's pontiff-priest, the morning star!
And yonder, lo! a shafted glow—
The gates of day-spring fall ajar!
—Scribner's.

A War-Time Incident.

Several months ago, when Department Commander Weber of the Grand Army was in Chattanooga looking after a site for the Ohio monument to her soldiers who fought at Mission Ridge, he met a Capt. Smart. Incidentally, in the conversation, Commander Weber spoke of the charge of the Union forces up the ridge, and of a Confederate battery which tried to escape, but snaggd one of its guns on a stump. He spoke also of one of the boys of his company who dropped a red cap near one of the batterymen. Capt. Smart gave him the address of Capt. Dent, who commanded the battery, and the commander wrote to him receiving the following interesting reply:

"I commanded what was known as 'Dent's battery' at the battles of Chickamauga and Mission Ridge. My battery was on the ridge and not far to the left of that part of the Confederate line which was opposite Orchard Knob. My battery was divided when the assault was made on the ridge. I had two guns at the left of a public road, and four to the right of said road. I think the road was the Shallow Fork road, but am not sure. I had six brass, 12-pounder Napoleon guns, and lost five of them in this battle.

"I feel satisfied from your description of the battle that it was my battery that fired on your flank, or at least a part of it. As soon as the assaulting column got under the hill so we could not reach them by front fire, we turned our guns so as to inflame the assaulting column as much as possible. One of my guns, the one nearest the road, got away. When I found the fire so heavy that I could not hope to escape that way, I tried to take the guns over through the underbrush.

"In going down I remember the axle of one of my guns caught against a stump. I tried to have it lifted over the stump, as the ground there was quite steep, and got the front axle over, but before we could get the hind axle over your people got very close and opened fire, killing, as I now remember, one man, and wounding several others. I was with this gun, and a bullet went through my coat sleeve. The gun, of course, was abandoned there.

"The red cap which your people found there belonged, I think, to the man killed there—his name was Schaub. When I say he was killed—I know he was shot through the neck and fell, and judging from the way the blood spurted, I saw no chance for him, and we left without ceremony.

"My impression is that the officer who rode the white horse in that battle was Gen. Patton Anderson. Gen. Anderson was afterward very badly wounded in the battle of Jonesboro. He died a few years ago in Memphis, Tenn., but went into the army from Florida.

"My battery was reorganized, but with only four guns, and I was in all the battles from Dalton to Atlanta, and was wounded July 22, 1864, in the battle of Atlanta—the day Gen. McPherson was killed—and later was wounded in the battle of Nashville. I was also in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, as some of your people call it and was wounded there.

"The war is over. I have a son in the navy who took part in the Spanish-American war a few years ago—so you see he fought for the flag in that war, if I did follow the stars and bars in the war of 1861-65.

"S. D. Dent, Eufula, Ala."

In a postscript the captain says of the battle of Mission Ridge:

"One incident of the battle you may recall. As your column advanced up the hill just opposite where one section of my battery was posted, which was to the Confederate left of this road, in firing on the column with the inflaming fire, we cut down the only tree, as I remember, left standing. The tree fell right on the advancing column, and, as it rolled down the steep hill, it carried with it one man, who had evidently been caught in the limbs of the tree. The picture of that man as he was carried down by the tree is very vivid in my mind."

Think Railroad Rate Too High.
There is a good deal of comment in Grand Army circles in the East over

what the comrades regard as too high a rate established by the railroads for the trip to the National Encampment, to be held in San Francisco in August. Seventy-three dollars from New York is regarded as too high. They cite the fact that the Christian Endeavorers, when their international convention was held in San Francisco, were given a rate of \$52. Massachusetts veterans have taken the matter up seriously, and a committee of six will be appointed to act with the Department Commander of that state in securing lower rates, if possible. A meeting of the present and past officers of the Department of Massachusetts and delegates was held in the state house in Boston recently to consider the subject. It was resolved to ask Commander in Chief Stewart to use all proper influence to get as good rates to San Francisco for the week of August 17 as was given the Christian Endeavor society.

Colored Man Was Grateful.

"I had a pleasant reminder of the war the other day," said the Captain. "It came in the shape of a silver cream pitcher and sugar bowl, accompanied by a well-written letter, which my people liked very much. The letter abounded in references the significance of which was apparent only to myself. After one of the hot engagements of the war I came upon a young colored man who had been between the lines and who was like a man paralyzed. I spoke reassuringly to him and hurried after the retreating enemy.

"In the evening some of my men brought the young negro into camp, and as I passed the group I heard the boys explaining to the young fellow that he was free and could do as he pleased. They wanted to know what he was going to do about it, and intimated pretty strongly that if they were in his place they would take the job of cooking for a certain mess in their own company. As I passed the colored man came toward me and stammered that he didn't know what the masses meant, but if he could do as he pleased he would do whatever I wanted him to do.

"He became my cook and man of all work at company headquarters, and remained with me to the end of the war. I took him home with me and in due time established him in business. Then I came West, and after my location in Chicago did not hear from my protegee for thirty years. He, in the meantime had changed location, had prospered in business, and after thirty years' waiting sent me the silver creamer and sugar, and a letter testifying to his gratitude and affection. I liked that, you know, and I was as glad to hear of his success in life as I would be to hear of the success of an old comrade in arms."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Few Fraudulent Claims.

Every now and then is heard a remark to the effect that many applicants for pensions are frauds, or that many claims made by soldiers are fraudulent, and the unthinking believe it. The last report of trials and convictions for one year shows there were 226 convictions, against 159 persons, as follows:

Soldiers and sailors, 11. Women's roll—Claiming as widows (after remarriage), 22; bogus widows, 11; claim as mother of soldier, 1; false witnesses, 4. Civilian's record, men's cases—Attempting bribery, 1; conspiracy, 2; false certifications, 23; false claims, 22; false personation, 1; forgery and perjury, 24; prosecuting claims while a government officer, 3. Offenses also against pensioners—Embezzlement from minors, 1; charging illegal fees, 15; personating government officers, 13; retaining pension certificates, 2.

Only eleven soldiers and sailors appear in the above list, two of whom were deserters, and one other served in the Spanish-American war.

Raising Fund for Encampment.

An effort is being made to raise a fund of \$100,000 to pay the expenses of the coming ex-Confederate soldiers' reunion in New Orleans. One contribution of \$1,000 has been made, and is the largest thus far. Three of \$500, one of \$300, and five of \$200 have been made. The Union Veterans' Association has given \$10, regretting its inability to give more, and saying: "We are prompted to this action by the kind treatment always accorded us by the Confederate veterans during our residence among you."

Postpone Meeting Till October.

The Society of the Army of the Tennessee has decided to postpone its meeting in Washington, D. C., from May to October 15. This action has been taken on account of a desire to have the President present at the unveiling of the statue of Gen. Sherman.

Famous Chateau d'If Sold.

The historical keep of the Chateau d'If, in the harbor of Marseilles, which was put up for auction together with the island itself last autumn, has at last been sold. The French government decided not to sell at first, because a gaming syndicate had plans to buy the island and turn it into a Monte Carlo. The purchaser of the keep is the captain of a French liner, who got it for 5,050f.

Let 'Em Whisper.

Prof. Triggs of the University of Chicago, says that children should be allowed to whisper in school, as it "does their souls good. Their souls should not be imprisoned in silence. I am glad that a step forward has been taken from the primitive condition in which our schools were a few years ago, when whispering was looked on as a crime."

Irrigation Works in Prospect.

The government is to begin the construction of irrigation works in five localities. The Sweetwater dam, Wyoming; Milk river, Montana; the Gunnison tunnel, Colorado; Truckee, Nevada, and Salt river, Arizona. The cost of the five plants is estimated as \$7,000,000, and they are expected to furnish water for 600,000 acres.

Admiral Dewey Fond of Horses.

Everybody knows that Admiral Dewey is as fine a sailor as ever paced the weather plank, but not many are aware that the hero of Manila is also a clever whip. The admiral owns a pair of the most spirited horses in Washington and he handles them with the skill of a veteran stage driver.

Ear Has Little Significance.

After studying and photographing more than forty thousand pair of ears of persons, including those of 3,000 insane and 800 criminals, and those of 300 animals, an English criminologist is forced to conclude that the ear gives no clue to personal traits.

Metaphysics in Scotch.

A Scotchman thus defines metaphysics: "When a mon wha' kens naething about any subject, takes a subject that nae mon kens anything about and explains it to another mon still more ignorant than himself—that's metaphysics."

For Co-Educational College.

Prof. Josephus Hopwood of Milligan college, Tennessee, has purchased property at Lynchburg, Va., where he will establish a co-educational institution to be known as the Virginia Christian college.

Where Mosquitoes Swarm.

Mosquitoes are so numerous near the coast of Borneo that the streams of that region are in summer often unnavigable. The insects swarm in such dense clouds that vision is obstructed.

Hours of Dining Changed.

Five centuries ago the English ate four meals a day—at 7, 10, 4 and 8 o'clock. The dinner hour in England and France has been gradually advanced from 10 a. m. to nearly 10 p. m.

Cost of Modern Warfare.

The immense indirect cost of warfare is illustrated by the fact that the Spanish-American war cost a million dollars a day for a year, although hostilities occupied but three months.

For Conversion to Mohammedanism.

George S. Barsoom of Cairo, Egypt, converted from Mohammedanism to Christianity, is now in the United States. He urges more missionary work among the Mohammedans.

Sterilization of Meat.

The sterilization of meat is much practiced in Belgium. It returns to the trade under the form of a wholesome product, meat which otherwise would be unfit for consumption.

Americans Honored in London.

Brander Matthews was the first non-resident American to be chosen as a member of the Athenaeum club of London. Henry White of the American embassy was the fourth.

Little More Anthracite in Sight.

Prof. Charles D. Walcott, director of the geological survey, says the anthracite fields of the United States will be exhausted in sixty years.

Lamont a Multi-Millionaire.

Daniel S. Lamont, private secretary and secretary of war in Mr. Cleveland's cabinets, is said to be worth several million dollars.

Pleads Cause of Animal Waifs.

Mrs. Sarah K. Bolton of Cleveland, O., will tour the large cities to plead the cause of the waif cat and tramp dog.

Has Razors Used by Henry Clay.

Secretary Simrall of the Lexington, Ky., board of education has five razors formerly used by Henry Clay.

All Were Spooning.

The other Sunday a minister of Hull, England, at the end of his sermon said that he had noticed a couple of young people spooning in the chapel. He threatened to denounce them to the congregation if they did not afterward go to the vestry to express their penitence. When he went to the vestry after the service he found there no fewer than six weeping couples!

All Dead Except the Lawsuit.

The question as to whether Mr. or Mrs. Fair died first in the automobile accident in France a year ago, in which both were killed, is still being vigorously fought in the courts. It is always a mooted question, especially when there is money involved. Otherwise it generally makes no particular difference, so long as both are dead.

Contempt for the Law.

It is one of the characteristics of the lynching mob to seek to make its act as much an expression of contempt for law as possible. Hence the fondness for some spot directly in front of the jail or courthouse as the place for the hanging. The lynching reported from Warren, Ark., illustrated the point.—Buffalo Express.

Ought to Carry a Band.

An association whose annual convention has just adjourned in Indianapolis appeals to the health authorities of all cities to ask street and steam railroads to use noiseless wheels. So they can sneak up on us unawares? Not much; it's hard enough to dodge the cars now.

Anti-Typhoid Serum Valuable.

The anti-typhoid serum has proved of great value in Paris. In 1478 cases, in fifteen hospitals, where it was not used, the mortality was 19.3 per cent., where it was not used, the mortality whereas in 186 cases where it was used it was only 3.7 per cent.

Lithographic Stone Found.

Large deposits of stone suitable for lithographic purposes have been discovered and opened in Thessaly. Greek experts report that this stone is far superior in quality to the best lithographic stone heretofore known in Europe.

Superstition Among Berliners.

There is a great prejudice in Berlin against occupying houses bearing the number 13; 126 corner houses that would have that number on one street, are marked only in accordance with the numbers on the other street.

Many Mississippi Charters.

It is stated 5,700 companies have been chartered in Mississippi within the past eighteen months, having an aggregate capital of \$90,000,000, and yet Mississippi is not regarded as being a progressive state.

Found His Burglar.

A New York man weighing 322 pounds tripped over a burglar the other night and sat down on him. The marauder was easily captured and it was no trouble at all to take him to the hospital.

Woman Obtains Highest Average.

Dr. Jennie Nicholson Browne of Baltimore obtained the highest average of the 105 candidates, mostly men, who took the Maryland state board examination in medicine lately.

To Make Record Swim.

A swimming teacher at Nice is training to swim from that city to Monte Carlo. He can already remain in the coldest water more than an hour at a time.

Means Ill to the Earth.

Abbe Moreux, a French savant whose opinions are widely respected, declares that the appearance of large spots on the sun bodes no good to the earth.

Hospitals for Consumptives.

The hospitals for consumptives near Berlin charge 70 to 80 cents a day. Most of the places are pre-empted by the companies which insure consumptives.

Art of Dwarfing Trees.

The art of dwarfing trees is part of the education of the Japanese upper classes. Many persons devote as much time to it as our women do to music.

Honor Last of His Race.

One hundred men drew the hearse at the funeral in Honolulu of Prince Albert Huiakia, who was the last of his dynasty.

Has Rare Tropical Garden.

Charles F. Eaton has, near Santa Barbara, Cal., a tropical garden containing 3,000 rare palms and other plants.

Clings Hard to Life.

Mrs. Jennie Businean of Lancaster, Mass., has seen eight of her fourteen children die of old age. She is 105.

When You Buy Starch
buy Defiance and get the best, 16 cts. for 10 cents. Once used, always used.

Wife—I found out something to-day that I promised never to tell. Husband—Well, go ahead; I'm listening.

After Promisingly Cured, He Was Arrested on the day's case of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE 60-day trial bottle and treatise. Dr. R. H. Kline, 161 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The new Pennsylvania libel law is intended to muzzle editors, but it would be impossible to muzzle a Philadelphia lawyer.

If you have smoked a Bullhead 5-cent cigar you know how good they are; if you have not, better try one.

Hotel rules: Guests are requested not to speak to the dumbwaiter. Guests wishing to get up without being called can have self-rising flour for lunch.



Mrs. Tupman, a prominent lady of Richmond, Va., a great sufferer with woman's troubles, tells how she was cured.

"For some years I suffered with backache, severe bearing-down pains, leucorrhoea, and falling of the womb. I tried many remedies, but nothing gave any positive relief.

"I commenced taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in June, 1901. When I had taken the first half bottle, I felt a vast improvement, and have now taken ten bottles with the result that I feel like a new woman. When I commenced taking the Vegetable Compound I felt all worn out and was fast approaching complete nervous collapse. I weighed only 98 pounds. Now I weigh 109½ pounds and am improving every day. I gladly testify to the benefits received."—Mrs. R. C. TUPMAN, 423 West 30th St., Richmond, Va. —\$5000 per bottle if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

When a medicine has been successful in more than a million cases, is it justice to yourself to say, without trying it, "I do not believe it would help me?"

Surely you cannot wish to remain weak and sick.

Mrs. Pinkham, whose address is Lynn, Mass., will answer cheerfully and without cost all letters addressed to her by sick women. Perhaps she has just the knowledge that will help your case—try her to-day—it costs nothing.

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